Appendix Table 7-2 Public interest in selected issues, by respondent characteristic: 2014

(Percent)

Characteristic	New medical discoveries			Local school issues			Economic issues/business conditions			Environmental pollution			Use of new inventions/technologies			New scientific discoveries			Military/defense policy			Agricultural/farm issues			Space exploration			International/foreign policy issues		
	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested
All adults (*n* = 2,130)	59	36	5	50	38	12	43	44	13	43	47	10	43	45	12	41	46	13	35	50	15	24	50	26	23	45	31	23	48	29
Sex																														
Male (*n* = 951)	54	40	6	40	44	15	46	42	12	42	49	10	52	40	8	45	44	11	42	48	10	26	50	25	30	46	23	29	45	25
Female (*n* = 1,179)	63	33	4	59	32	9	41	45	14	44	45	10	36	49	15	38	48	14	29	51	19	23	50	27	17	44	38	17	50	33
Formal education																														
< High school (*n* = 246)	50	39	11	47	32	20	27	38	34	40	41	19	33	38	29	27	44	29	33	39	28	25	45	29	17	38	45	12	34	53
High school diploma (*n* = 632)	58	37	5	49	41	9	36	47	17	42	49	9	41	46	13	37	44	19	38	48	14	25	46	29	19	45	36	17	45	38
Some college (*n* = 607)	61	35	3	51	39	10	44	47	8	44	45	10	43	47	9	42	48	9	37	48	14	26	50	23	26	44	30	21	50	28
Bachelor's degree (*n* = 406)	63	34	3	49	37	14	53	39	8	42	50	8	51	43	6	49	45	5	30	57	13	20	56	24	30	46	24	30	55	14
Graduate/professional degree (*n* = 239)	59	38	2	57	32	11	57	38	4	49	45	5	48	44	8	48	49	4	35	55	11	22	53	25	25	55	20	42	48	10
Science/mathematics education[a]																														
Low (*n* = 1,205)	57	37	6	49	39	12	39	44	17	40	49	11	39	46	15	36	46	18	34	48	18	25	47	28	19	44	37	17	46	36
Middle (*n* = 392)	63	34	3	56	31	13	48	45	7	48	44	8	45	47	8	45	49	6	40	51	9	22	56	21	26	49	25	27	52	21
High (*n* = 435)	63	35	2	46	42	12	50	43	7	46	47	7	55	39	5	52	43	4	33	54	12	26	50	24	35	44	21	38	48	14
Family income (quartile)[b]																														
Bottom (*n* = 532)	56	35	8	51	36	13	35	45	20	45	43	12	43	39	17	37	42	21	34	44	22	26	46	28	22	38	40	14	44	41

Characteristic	New medical discoveries			Local school issues			Economic issues/business conditions			Environmental pollution			Use of new inventions/technologies			New scientific discoveries			Military/defense policy			Agricultural/farm issues			Space exploration			International/foreign policy issues		
	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested
Third (*n* = 440)	57	39	4	48	39	13	35	51	14	41	49	10	42	46	13	43	42	16	33	49	18	24	51	25	18	47	35	21	42	37
Second (*n* = 512)	60	36	4	54	39	8	46	45	9	46	44	10	43	47	9	41	50	9	36	55	9	25	51	24	25	47	28	24	51	25
Top (*n* = 480)	60	36	4	48	38	14	57	35	8	40	52	8	48	45	7	43	50	7	36	53	11	23	48	29	28	47	25	33	50	18
Age (years)[b]																														
18–24 (*n* = 103)	61	25	11	39	43	16	32	49	18	35	49	14	56	29	12	47	33	18	31	37	31	14	41	43	29	32	37	11	46	41
25–34 (*n* = 382)	57	37	6	54	37	9	35	49	16	42	46	12	46	41	13	46	42	13	24	56	21	17	47	36	26	43	30	17	44	38
35–44 (*n* = 381)	51	43	6	63	28	8	42	45	12	40	49	11	38	48	13	36	49	15	33	55	12	24	50	26	20	46	34	22	48	29
45–54 (*n* = 376)	57	39	4	56	34	11	51	39	10	48	44	8	44	45	11	37	50	12	38	48	14	29	49	23	23	45	32	26	47	27
55–64 (*n* = 429)	62	35	3	39	46	15	47	42	11	48	45	7	43	49	8	42	48	10	35	54	11	29	53	18	24	49	26	25	52	23
≥ 65 (*n* = 441)	66	31	3	46	40	14	45	42	13	40	49	10	39	48	13	40	46	14	47	42	11	27	54	19	21	48	31	28	47	24
Trend factual knowledge of science scale (quartile)																														
Bottom (*n* = 349)	58	33	8	52	32	15	34	43	21	39	44	16	33	45	20	27	44	28	30	48	20	24	42	33	9	47	43	10	40	48
Third (*n* = 588)	58	37	5	53	38	9	38	46	15	43	46	11	38	47	15	34	50	15	35	49	16	24	50	27	18	44	38	16	49	34
Second (*n* = 596)	58	37	5	52	38	10	47	40	13	43	49	8	43	47	10	42	46	12	38	47	15	24	53	23	24	43	32	22	50	28
Top (*n* = 597)	62	36	3	45	40	15	48	46	6	45	47	8	55	41	4	54	43	3	35	53	12	25	51	24	36	47	17	37	48	15

[a] Low = ≤ 5 high school and college science/mathematics courses; middle = 6–8 courses; high = ≥ 9 courses. Categories do not add to total *n* because "don't know" responses and refusals to respond are not shown.

[b] Categories do not add to total *n* because "don't know" responses and refusals to respond are not shown.

NOTES: Responses to *There are a lot of issues in the news, and it is hard to keep up with every area. I'm going to read you a short list of issues, and for each one I would like you to tell me if you are very interested, moderately interested, or not at all interested.* Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding and because "don't know" responses and refusals to respond are not shown.

This table shows the percentage of the nine questions in the trend factual knowledge of science scale that were answered correctly. "Don't know" responses and refusals to respond count as incorrect. Questions in the trend factual knowledge of science scale are:

- *The center of the Earth is very hot.* (True)
- *All radioactivity is man-made.* (False)
- *It is the father's gene that decides whether the baby is a boy or a girl.* (True) or (in 2008) *It is the mother's gene that decides whether the baby is a boy or a girl.* (False) (Split ballot in 2008; 1,506 survey respondents were asked about "father's gene"; 515 survey respondents were asked about "mother's gene.")
- *Lasers work by focusing sound waves.* (False)
- *Electrons are smaller than atoms.* (True)
- *Antibiotics kill viruses as well as bacteria.* (False)

- *The continents on which we live have been moving their locations for millions of years and will continue to move in the future.* (True)
- *Does the Earth go around the Sun, or does the Sun go around the Earth?* (Earth around Sun)
- *How long does it take for the Earth to go around the Sun?* (One year) (Asked only if the respondent answered correctly that the Earth goes around the Sun.)

SOURCE: University of Chicago, National Opinion Research Center, General Social Survey (2014).

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